

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6873

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 18 (legislative day, MAY 17), 2022

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs

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## AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish  
the Office for Bombing Prevention to address terrorist  
explosive threats, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Bombing Prevention  
3 Act of 2022”.

4 **SEC. 2. OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XXII of the Homeland Se-  
6 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.) is amended by  
7 adding at the end the following new subtitle:

8 **“Subtitle D—Bombing Prevention**

9 **“SEC. 2241. OFFICE FOR BOMBING PREVENTION.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
11 the Department an Office for Bombing Prevention (in this  
12 section referred to as the ‘Office’).

13 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—The Office shall have the primary  
14 responsibility within the Department for enhancing the  
15 ability and coordinating the efforts of the United States  
16 to deter, detect, prevent, protect against, mitigate, and re-  
17 spond to terrorist explosive threats and attacks in the  
18 United States, including by carrying out the following:

19 “(1) Advising the Secretary on matters related  
20 to terrorist explosive threats and attacks in the  
21 United States.

22 “(2) Coordinating the efforts of the Depart-  
23 ment to counter terrorist explosive threats and at-  
24 tacks in the United States, including by carrying out  
25 the following:

1                 “(A) Developing, in coordination with the  
2                 Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and  
3                 Plans, the Department’s strategy against ter-  
4                 rorist explosives threats and attacks, including  
5                 efforts to support the security and preparedness  
6                 of critical infrastructure and the public sector  
7                 and private sector.

8                 “(B) Leading the prioritization of the De-  
9                 partment’s efforts against terrorist explosive  
10                threats and attacks, including preparedness and  
11                operational requirements.

12                “(C) Ensuring, in coordination with the  
13                Under Secretary for Science and Technology  
14                and the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
15                gency Management Agency, the identification,  
16                evaluation, and availability of effective tech-  
17                nology applications through field pilot testing  
18                and acquisition of such technology applications  
19                by the public sector to deter, detect, prevent,  
20                protect against, mitigate, and respond to ter-  
21                rorist explosive threats and attacks in the  
22                United States.

23                “(D) Providing advice and recommenda-  
24                tions to the Administrator of the Federal Emer-  
25                gency Management Agency regarding the effec-

1           tive use of grants authorized under section  
2           2002.

3           “(E) In coordination with the Assistant  
4           Secretary for Countering Weapons of Mass De-  
5           struction, aligning Department efforts related  
6           to terrorist explosive threats and attacks in the  
7           United States and weapons of mass destruction.

8           “(3) Engaging other Federal departments and  
9           agencies, including Sector Risk Management Agen-  
10          cies, regarding terrorist explosive threats and at-  
11          tacks in the United States.

12          “(4) Facilitating information sharing and deci-  
13          sion support of the public and private sector involved  
14          in deterrence, detection, prevention, protection  
15          against, mitigation of, and response to terrorist ex-  
16          plosive threats and attacks in the United States.  
17          Such sharing and support may include the following:

18           “(A) Operating and maintaining a secure  
19          information sharing system that allows the  
20          sharing of critical information and data relating  
21          to terrorist explosive attack tactics, techniques,  
22          procedures, and security capabilities, including  
23          information and data described in paragraph  
24          (6) and section 2242.

1                 “(B) Working with international partners,  
2                 in coordination with the Office for International  
3                 Affairs of the Department, to develop and share  
4                 effective practices to deter, prevent, detect, pro-  
5                 tect against, mitigate, and respond to terrorist  
6                 explosive threats and attacks in the United  
7                 States.

8                 “(5) Promoting security awareness among the  
9                 public and private sector and the general public re-  
10                 garding the risks posed by the misuse of explosive  
11                 precursor chemicals and other bomb-making mate-  
12                 rials.

13                 “(6) Providing training, guidance, assessments,  
14                 and planning assistance to the public and private  
15                 sector, as appropriate, to help counter the risk of  
16                 terrorist explosive threats and attacks in the United  
17                 States.

18                 “(7) Conducting analysis and planning for the  
19                 capabilities and requirements necessary for the pub-  
20                 lic and private sector, as appropriate, to deter, de-  
21                 tect, prevent, protect against, mitigate, and respond  
22                 to terrorist explosive threats and attacks in the  
23                 United States by carrying out the following:

24                 “(A) Maintaining a database on capabili-  
25                 ties and requirements, including capabilities

1 and requirements of public safety bomb squads,  
2 explosive detection canine teams, special tactics  
3 teams, public safety dive teams, and recipients  
4 of services described in section 2242.

5 “(B) Applying the analysis derived from  
6 the database described in subparagraph (A)  
7 with respect to the following:

8           “(i) Evaluating progress toward clos-  
9 ing identified gaps relating to national  
10 strategic goals and standards related to de-  
11 terring, detecting, preventing, protecting  
12 against, mitigating, and responding to ter-  
13 rrorist explosive threats and attacks in the  
14 United States.

15           “(ii) Informing decisions relating to  
16 homeland security policy, assistance, train-  
17 ing, research, development efforts, testing  
18 and evaluation, and related requirements  
19 regarding deterring, detecting, preventing,  
20 protecting against, mitigating, and re-  
21 sponding to terrorist explosive threats and  
22 attacks in the United States.

23           “(8) Promoting secure information sharing of  
24 sensitive material and promoting security awareness,  
25 including by carrying out the following:

1                 “(A) Operating and maintaining a secure  
2 information sharing system that allows the  
3 sharing among and between the public and pri-  
4 vate sector of critical information relating to ex-  
5 plosive attack tactics, techniques, and proce-  
6 dures.

7                 “(B) Educating the public and private sec-  
8 tors about explosive precursor chemicals.

9                 “(C) Working with international partners,  
10 in coordination with the Office for International  
11 Affairs of the Department, to develop and share  
12 effective practices to deter, detect, prevent, pro-  
13 tect against, mitigate, and respond to terrorist  
14 explosive threats and attacks in the United  
15 States.

16                 “(D) Executing national public awareness  
17 and vigilance campaigns relating to terrorist ex-  
18 plosive threats and attacks in the United  
19 States, preventing explosive attacks, and activi-  
20 ties and measures underway to safeguard the  
21 United States.

22                 “(E) Working with relevant stakeholder or-  
23 ganizations.

24                 “(9) Providing any other assistance the Sec-  
25 retary determines necessary.

1   **“SEC. 2242. COUNTERING EXPLOSIVE DEVICES TECHNICAL**  
2                   **ASSISTANCE.**

3       “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Upon request, the Secretary  
4 shall, to the extent practicable, provide to the public and  
5 private sector technical assistance services to support the  
6 security and preparedness of such sectors, as appropriate,  
7 to counter terrorist explosive threats and attacks that pose  
8 a risk in certain jurisdictions, including vulnerable and  
9 disadvantaged communities, to critical infrastructure fa-  
10 cilities, or to special events, as appropriate.

11      “(b) ELEMENTS.—Technical assistance services pro-  
12 vided pursuant to subsection (a) shall—

13           “(1) support the planning and implementation  
14 of effective measures to deter, detect, prevent, pro-  
15 tect against, mitigate, and respond to terrorist ex-  
16 plosive threats and attacks in the United States, in-  
17 cluding effective strategic risk management and  
18 emergency operations plans;

19           “(2) support the security of explosive precursor  
20 chemicals and other bomb-making materials outside  
21 of regulatory control;

22           “(3) support efforts to prepare for and respond  
23 to bomb threats or other acts involving the malicious  
24 conveyance of false information concerning terrorist  
25 explosive threats and attacks in the United States;

1           “(4) make available resources to enhance deter-  
2       rence, prevention, detection, protection, mitigation,  
3       and response capabilities for terrorist explosive  
4       threats and attacks in the United States, including  
5       coordination and communication, to better integrate  
6       State, local, Tribal, and territorial and private sector  
7       capabilities and assets, as appropriate, with Federal  
8       operations;

9           “(5) make available augmenting resources, as  
10      appropriate, to enable State, local, Tribal, and terri-  
11      torial governments to sustain and refresh their capa-  
12      bilities;

13           “(6) track performance in meeting the goals  
14      and associated plans of the provision of such tech-  
15      nical assistance; and

16           “(7) include any other assistance the Secretary  
17      determines necessary.

18   **“SEC. 2243. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER DEPARTMENT COM-**  
19           **PONENTS AND FEDERAL AGENCIES.**

20           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority of the Secretary  
21      under this subtitle shall not affect or diminish the author-  
22      ity or the responsibility of any officer of any other Federal  
23      agency with respect to the command, control, or direction  
24      of the functions, personnel, funds, assets, or liabilities of  
25      any other such Federal agency.

1       “(b) DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS.—Nothing in this  
2 subtitle or any other provision of law may be construed  
3 to affect or reduce the responsibilities of—

4           “(1) the Countering Weapons of Mass Destru-  
5 tion Office or the Assistant Secretary of the Office,  
6 including with respect to any asset, function, or mis-  
7 sion of the Office or the Assistant Secretary, as the  
8 case may be;

9           “(2) the Federal Emergency Management  
10 Agency or the Administrator of the Agency, includ-  
11 ing the diversion of any asset, function, or mission  
12 of the Agency or the Administrator as the case may  
13 be; or

14           “(3) the Transportation Security Administra-  
15 tion or the Administrator of the Administration, in-  
16 cluding the diversion of any asset, function, or mis-  
17 sion of the Administration or the Administrator, as  
18 the case may be.”.

19       (b) STRATEGY AND REPORTS.—

20           (1) STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after  
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of  
22 the Office for Bombing Prevention of the Depart-  
23 ment of Homeland Security (established pursuant to  
24 section 2241 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002,  
25 as added by subsection (a)), in consultation with the

1       heads of other components of the Department and  
2       the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate,  
3       shall develop a strategy to align the Office's activi-  
4       ties with the threat environment and stakeholder  
5       needs, and make the public and private sector aware  
6       of the Office's capabilities. Such strategy shall in-  
7       clude the following elements:

8                 (A) Information on terrorist explosive  
9        threats, tactics, and attacks in the United  
10      States.

11                 (B) Information, by region of the United  
12      States, regarding public and private sector enti-  
13       ties likely to be targeted by terrorist explosive  
14       threats and attacks in the United States, in-  
15       cluding historically black colleges and univer-  
16       sities and minority serving institutions, places  
17       of worship, health care facilities, transportation  
18       systems, commercial facilities, and government  
19       facilities.

20                 (C) Guidance on how outreach to owners  
21       and operators of critical infrastructure (as such  
22       term is defined in section 1016(e) of Public  
23       Law 107–56 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))) in a region  
24       should be prioritized.

(E) Long-term objectives of the Office, including future service and training offerings.

(F) Metrics for measuring the effectiveness  
of services and trainings offered by the Office.

(G) An assessment of resource requirements necessary to implement such strategy.

14 (H) A description of how the Office part-  
15 ners with other components of the Department  
16 and other Federal agencies to carry out its mis-  
17 sion.

1       Homeland Security (established pursuant to section  
2       2241 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as  
3       added by subsection (a)). Each such report shall in-  
4       clude information on the following:

5                 (A) Changes to terrorist explosive threats,  
6                 tactics, and attacks in the United States.

7                 (B) Changes to the types of public and pri-  
8                 vate sector entities likely to be targeted by ter-  
9                 rorist explosive threats and attacks in the  
10               United States.

11                 (C) The number of trainings, assessments,  
12                 and other engagements carried out by the Of-  
13                 fice within each region of the United States, in-  
14                 cluding a description of the critical infrastruc-  
15                 ture sector or stakeholder served.

16                 (D) The number of trainings, assessments,  
17                 or other engagements the Office was asked to  
18                 conduct but did not, and an explanation relat-  
19                 ing thereto.

20                 (E) The effectiveness of the trainings, as-  
21                 sessments, or other engagements provided by  
22                 the Office based on the metrics described in  
23                 paragraph (1)(F).

24                 (F) Any changes or anticipated changes in  
25                 the trainings, assessments, and other engage-

1               ments, or any other services, offered by the Of-  
2               fice, and an explanation relating thereto.

3               (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
4       in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is  
5       amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
6       2238 the following new items:

“Subtitle D—Bombing Prevention

“Sec. 2241. Office for Bombing Prevention.

“Sec. 2242. Countering explosive devices technical assistance.

“Sec. 2243. Relationship to other Department components and Federal agen-  
cies.”.

7 **SEC. 3. EXPLOSIVES TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT.**

8               (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-  
9       rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by  
10      adding at the end the following new section:

11 **“SEC. 323. EXPLOSIVES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**

12               “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
13      the Under Secretary for Science and Technology, and in  
14      coordination with the head of the Office for Bombing Pre-  
15      vention and the Assistant Secretary for the Countering  
16      Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, and in consultation  
17      with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Defense, and  
18      the head of any other relevant Federal department or  
19      agency, including Sector Risk Management Agencies, shall  
20      ensure coordination and information sharing regarding  
21      nonmilitary research, development, testing, and evaluation  
22      activities of the Federal Government relating to the deter-

1   rence, detection, prevention, protection against, mitigation  
2   of, and response to terrorist explosive threats and attacks  
3   in the United States.

4       “(b) LEVERAGING MILITARY RESEARCH.—The Sec-  
5   retary, acting through the Under Secretary for Science  
6   and Technology, and in coordination with the head of the  
7   Office for Bombing Prevention and the Assistant Sec-  
8   retary for the Countering of Weapons of Mass Destruction  
9   Office, shall consult with the Secretary of Defense and the  
10   head of any other relevant Federal department or agency,  
11   including Sector Risk Management Agencies, to ensure  
12   that, to the maximum extent possible, military policies and  
13   procedures, and research, development, testing, and eval-  
14   uation activities relating to the deterrence, detection, pre-  
15   vention, protection against, mitigation of, and response to  
16   terrorist explosive threats and attacks in the United  
17   States are adapted to nonmilitary uses.”.

18       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
19   in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is

- 1 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
- 2 322 the following new item:

"See. 323. Explosives research and development."

Passed the House of Representatives May 17, 2022.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

*Clerk.*